

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 /018 W

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R 140830Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4567

UNCLAS HONG KONG 3964

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT

REF: 3374

1. MR. NORMAN THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN (DESIGNATE) OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORP. (MTRC), DURING MEETING WITH PULLMANSTANDARD'S REPRESENTATIVE AND CONGEN OFFICERS, STATED THAT HE REGRETTED THAT ONLY TWO U.S. CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAD REGISTERED AND PRE-QUALIFIED FOR BIDDING ON "TUBE" HE SAID MANY CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTING FIRMS HAD WRITTEN TO HIM, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT CONSULTING FIRMS ARE NOT WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR. HE SAID U.S. CONSTRUCTION FIRMS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR JUNE 1 REGISTRATION DEADLINE, BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE EXCELLENT CHANCES TO GET CONTRACTS. HE DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO VIEW OF SOME THAT U.S. CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE AND THAT BRINGING EQUIPMENT INTO HONG KONG WOULD BE A PROBLEM. HE SAID HONGKONG WANTED TO WORK WITH U.S. FIRMS. HE SAID, FURTHERMORE, THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT MAJOR U.S. BANKS AND THE EXIM BANK WOULD FINANCE THE CONTRACTS IF U.S. COMPANIES WERE INVOLVED.

2. MR. THOMPSON STATED THAT HIS TRIP TO U.S. (SEE HK 1473 OF 2/7/75) WILL BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH FINANCING. HE WILL CONTACT EXIM BANK AND OTHER LEADING AMERICAN BANKS.

3. MR. A.R. COTTON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (DESIGNATE)
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AND MR. T.M. RIDLEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE) WERE

ALSO AT MEETING AND EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN PULLMAN-STANDARD'S ROLLING STOCK. THEY WILL VISIT PULLMAN'S FACILITIES IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO.

4. MTRC WILL MAIL NEXT GROUP OF TENDER DOCUMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WITHIN PERIOD MID-APRIL TO MID-SEPTEMBER AND FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTS, IN MID-AUGUST. FIRST CIVIL CONTRACTS WILL BE FOR FIRST TWO PHASES OF LOWLOON BAY DEPOT AND TUNNELLING WORK AND CONSTRUCTION OF STATIONS FROM CHOI HUNG TO WATERLOO ROAD INTERSECTION VIA NORTHERN KOWLOON AND NATHAN ROAD.

5. TENDERS FOR JUNE 1 REGISTRATION DEADLINE WILL LARGELY COMPRISE TUNNELLING AND STATION CONSTRUCTION AT SOUTHERN END OF NATHAN ROAD AND IN CENTRAL AND TUBE CONSTRUCTION UNDER HARBOR TO EAST OF HMS TAMAR. CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK03964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750129-0640
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750453/aaaabxht.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 3374
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS: MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT
TAGS: BEXP, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006